Telephone Connections in Post Offices of Meglialaya

1243. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connection have been provided in all the post offices of Mcghalaya;

(b) if so, the number of post offices yet to be provided with this facility; and

(c) by when this facility is likely to be provided to such post offices in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In Meghalaya out of 480 Post Offices including extra-departmental Sub & Branch Post Offices, 54 Post Offices including extra-departmental Post Offices have telephone facilities leaving 426 post offices without telephone facilities.

(c) Attempts are being made by the Telecom authorities to provide telephone on demand by the end of Ninth Plan. Telephone connections arc provided to Post Offices on the demand placed subject to availability of resources.

Corruption in MTNL Directory Printing

1244. SHRI SATISCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item publi-shed in Sakal, Marathi daily, Mumbai dated 3rd November, 1999 under the caption "Corruption in MTNL directory printing";

(b) if so, the details; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The General Secretary, Mumbai North-West Congress Committee has alleged that there is corruption in printing of supplementary telephone directory. It was alleged that only 5-6 lakhs copies of supplementary directory arc printed in place of required 22